

Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Economic Activity

In 2016, Alberta's real GDP by industry fell by 3.8%, the largest drop among the provinces for the second year in a row. The Alberta Activity Index was up 2.2% year-to-date in February, suggesting a return to economic growth this year.

Population

Alberta's population was 4,280,127 as of January 1, 2017. This was an increase of 1.5% from the year prior. Canada's population grew 1.3% from a year ago.

Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 3,555 in the fourth quarter of 2016. During this time, Alberta welcomed 6,128 net international migrants. However, there was a net outflow of interprovincial migrants (-2,573), the fifth consecutive quarterly decline.

Employment¹

Alberta lost 300 jobs in April. The losses were in part-time positions (-3,200), while 2,900 full-time positions were gained. Employment increased 0.8% year-over-year (y/y).

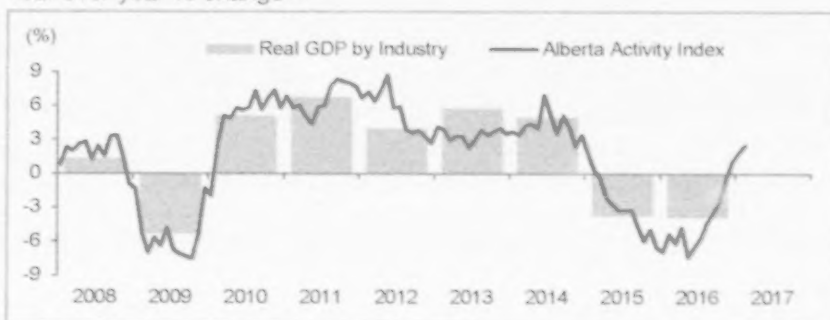
Unemployment Rate¹

Alberta's unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 7.9% in April. Canada's unemployment rate dropped to 6.5%.

Rigs Drilling

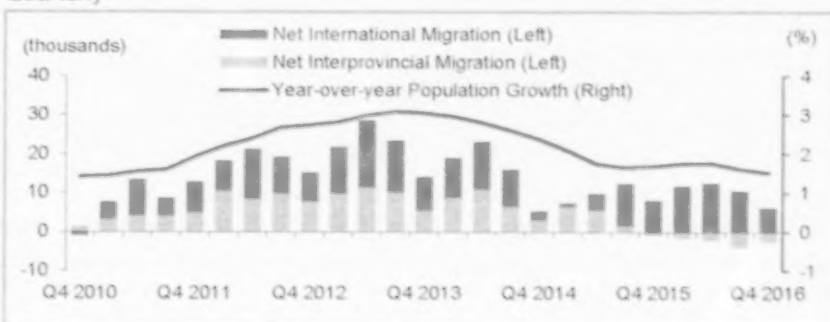
The number of active rigs in Alberta averaged 85 in April, about 60% below the height of the winter drilling season in January but nearly triple from the same month last year.

Economic Activity
Year-over-year % change



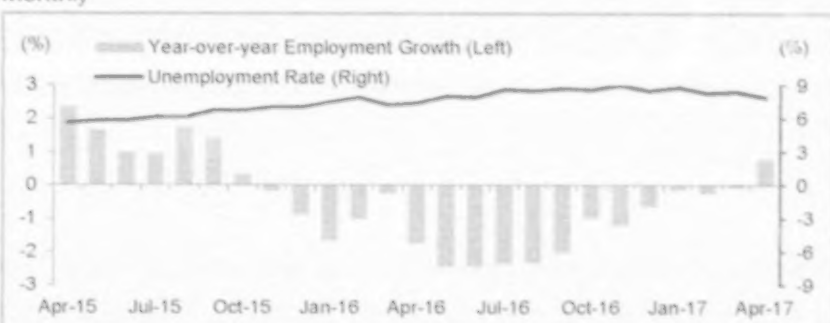
Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

Demographics
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflation

The Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.3% y/y in March. Gasoline prices were up 13% y/y while food prices (-0.7% y/y) and rent (-1.7% y/y) fell.

Average Weekly Earnings¹

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta declined 0.2% in February to \$1,108. Weakness in goods-sector earnings (-1.3% m/m) outweighed a modest gain in service-sector earnings (0.5% m/m).

Retail Sales¹

Alberta retail sales decreased by 0.3% m/m to \$6.6 billion in February, following a 3.4% m/m gain in January. Retail sales grew 6.3% y/y, the third consecutive month of gains.

NEW: Housing Starts¹

Alberta housing starts were down 11% m/m in April to 31,218 units (annualized). Housing starts increased 9.0% y/y. Single-family starts rose 35% y/y while multi-family starts were down 3.0% y/y.

NEW: New Housing Price Index

Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) was unchanged in March but was down 0.4% y/y. The house only component was down 1.1% y/y while land prices were up 0.9% y/y.

NEW: Building Permits¹

Alberta building permits slipped 0.6% m/m in March to \$1.1 billion. Building permits were up 9.8% y/y. Non-residential permits declined 16% while residential permits were up 36% y/y.

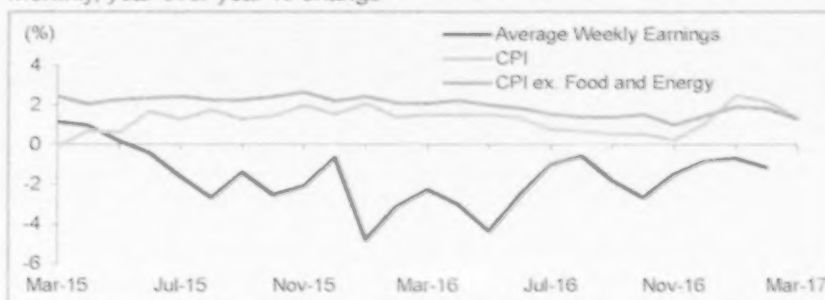
¹ Seasonally adjusted

Contact

Daniel Letcher

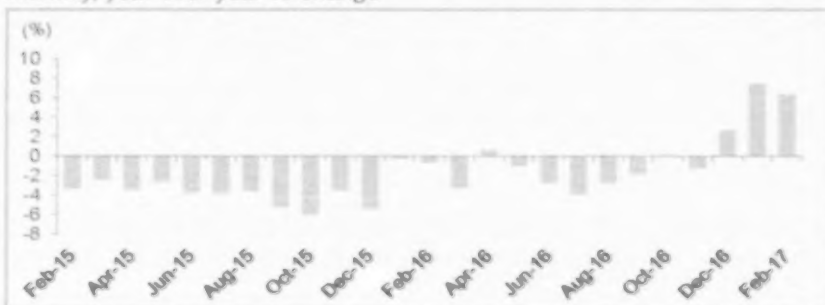
780.427.8845

Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

Housing Market
Monthly

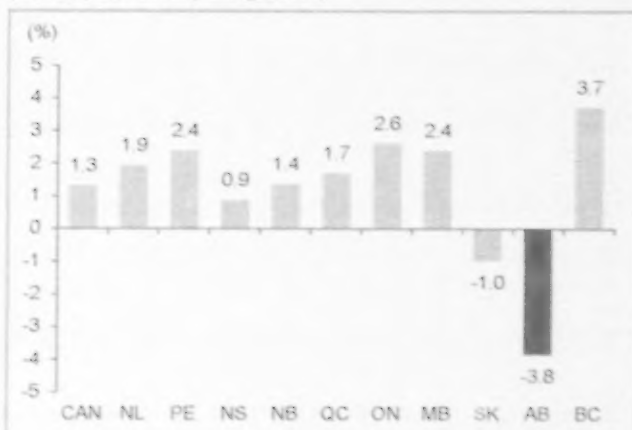


Source: Statistics Canada

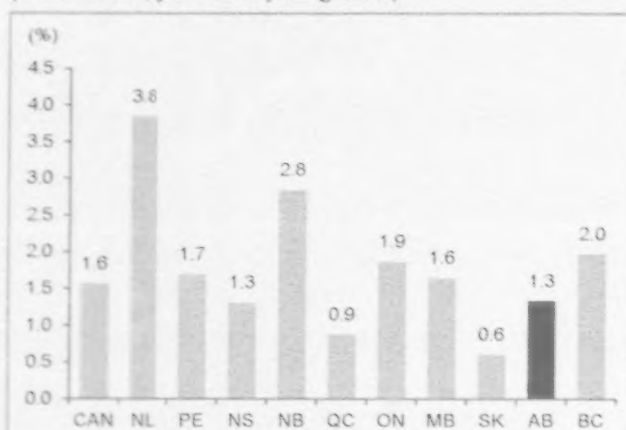
	Canadian Dollar (US\$/CAN)	WTI Oil (\$US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price (\$C/GJ)
Latest (May 11, 2017)	72.96	47.83	3.16	2.30 (Henry)
Fiscal year-to-date	73.66	50.81	3.21	1.00

Please see the [Weekly Economic Review](#) for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

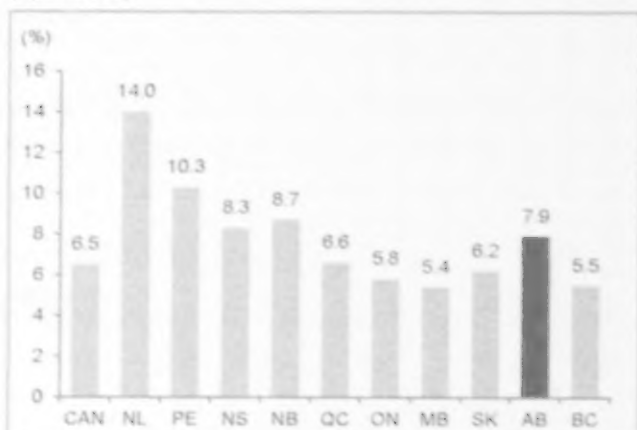
Real GDP by Industry
(2016, year-over-year growth)



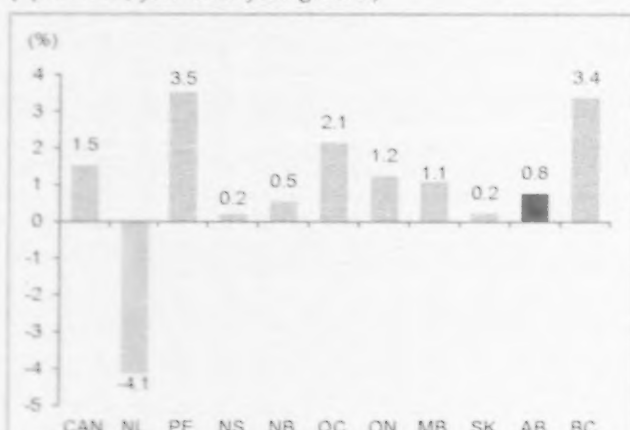
CPI Inflation
(March 2017, year-over-year growth)



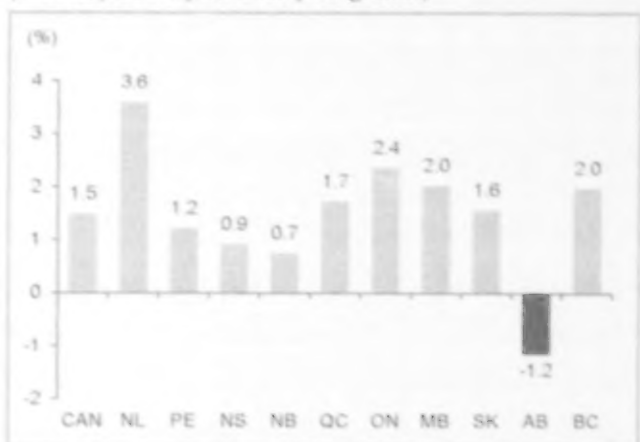
Unemployment Rate
(April 2017)



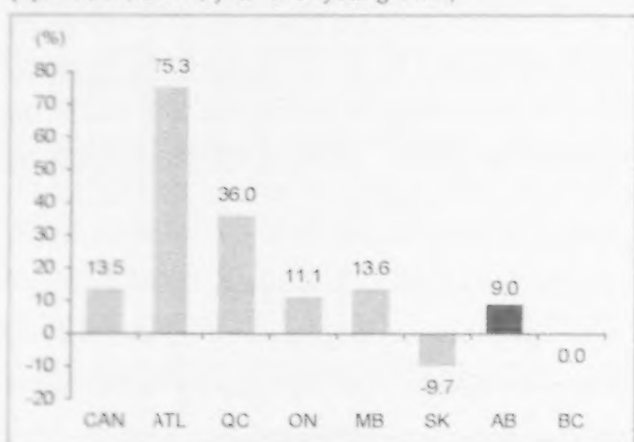
Employment
(April 2017, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(February 2017, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(April 2017, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

	2015	2016	2017YTD	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	-3.0	-4.4	2.2	-0.6	1.0	1.8	2.5		
Population¹									
Population (thousands)	4,180	4,253	4,280			4,250			
y/y % change	1.7	1.8	1.5			1.5			
Net interprovincial Migration	21,594	2,873	-6,423			2,573			
Net international Migration	16,743	43,041	16,572			6,128			
Labour Market									
Employment (thousands SA)	2,301	2,264	2,279	2,262	2,267	2,268	2,269	2,289	2,289
m/m change (thousands)				12.4	5.7	8.2	1.3	20.4	-0.3
y/y % change	1.2	-1.6	0.1	1.2	0.6	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.8
Unemployment Rate (% SA)	6.0	8.1	8.4	9.0	8.5	8.8	8.3	8.4	7.9
Participation Rate (% SA)	73.0	72.5	72.8	72.9	72.7	72.9	72.6	73.1	72.7
Average Weekly Earnings (\$ SA)	1,146	1,119	1,110	1,116	1,135	1,111	1,108		
y/y % change	0.3	-2.4	-0.8	1.5	0.8	0.7	-0.2		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales (\$ million SA)	76,019	75,110	13,285	6,334	6,435	6,651	6,634		
y/y % change	-4.0	-1.2	6.9	1.2	3.6	2.8	6.3		
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	342	324	30	19	16	15	17		
y/y % change	-12.7	-7.6	4.4	7.7	3.4	3.4	5.4		
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.1	1.1	2.0	0.2	1.0	2.5	2.2	1.3	
Excludes Food & Energy	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.3	
NEW Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	37.3	24.6	27.8	25.1	26.8	18.6	26.3	35.1	31.2
y/y % change	3.1	34.2	15.0	40.6	4.5	20.1	15.8	59.1	9.0
NEW New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	0.7	0.5	-0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	-0.4	0.4	
People Home Take	56,477	52,189	14,470	1,174	4,670	4,754	4,974	4,742	
y/y % change	-21.3	-7.6	17.6	10.9	6.2	15.8	24.7	17.7	
Ratio to New Listing Ratio	0.52	0.49	0.54	0.44	0.55	0.56	0.57	0.51	
MLS Average Resale Price (\$ thousands)	393	396	395	397	401	394	390	402	
y/y % change	-1.9	0.4	2.5	2.6	1.4	2.7	1.0	3.9	
Consumer Bankruptcy (mill)	4,280	5,427	617	465	401	391	426		
y/y % change	10.9	26.8	6.4	29.5	6.0	0.3	11.8		
Business Sector									
South Export (Canadian dollar \$ million)	92,441	70,134	26,096	7,798	8,037	8,637	7,981	9,602	
y/y % change	24.0	14.4	39.5	15.2	10.3	18.3	36.6	68.1	
Energy Products (\$ million)	62,500	51,780	18,745	2,454	5,618	6,102	5,900	6,754	
y/y % change	-31.5	-17.2	59.4	25.8	16.0	20.2	59.0	103.2	
Agrochemical Products (\$ million)	6,474	6,289	1,853	611	554	631	527	605	
y/y % change	0.2	3.2	20.3	7.7	7.0	30.2	5.1	22.2	
Rig Drilling	180	79	155	108	151	199	188	148	85
y/y % change	-52.6	-34.0	102.0	4.9	57.3	65.7	67.0	-22.1	103.9
Manufacturing (excludes \$ million)	66,483	62,565	11,406	5,472	5,580	5,660	5,744		
y/y % change	13.9	8.6	14.9	1.6	6.8	13.4	10.4		
Wholesale Trade (\$ million)	79,801	74,448	13,256	6,236	6,373	6,534	6,721		
y/y % change	6.0	-6.7	5.0	7.2	0.5	1.3	9.9		
NEW Building Permits (SA million SA)	16,753	14,700	3,448	1,077	804	1,321	1,117	1,110	
y/y % change	8.2	15.2	-3.3	5.7	32.0	9.0	27.1	9.8	
NEW Non-residential Permits (\$ million SA)	9,876	7,930	1,976	601	461	625	661	660	
y/y % change	8.8	19.7	10.1	-4.4	35.2	1.6	1.1	35.8	
NEW Non-residential Permits (SA million SA)	6,877	6,270	1,472	476	373	596	496	421	
y/y % change	-7.4	-8.8	16.8	-11.6	-29.7	22.9	-41.8	16.3	
NEW New Home Building Starts (excludes y/y % change)	0.7	2.6			2.2			0.0	

¹ Population data presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30).
The current census year 2017.

² Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except the Alberta Activity Index (Alberta Treasury Board and Finance), Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada). All historical data are subject to revision.